

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. 25X1A
 TOPIC Soviet Troops in Bautzen

EVALUATION see below 25X1A PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 15 December 1951 to 10 January 1952

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 22 January 1952

REFERENCES [redacted]

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REMARKS

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1. On 8 January 1952, the Musaren Kaserne on Kaethe Kollwitz Strasse, Bautzen (O 52/A 60), was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. All windows of the installation were lighted during the evening. About 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying rifles were seen marching to the Schafberg (hill), 3 km east of Bautzen, on 7 January. They subsequently separated into groups of about 20 men each, and practiced the climbing of trees with the aid of makeshift wire loops with and without rifles. About three companies of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and carrying rifles were seen receiving field training at the drill ground of Binnewitz, southeast of Bautzen. They primarily practiced attacking over a medium distance with subsequent penetration of simulated enemy positions. One JS tank and T-34 tanks [redacted] entered the Musaren Kaserne on 8 January. [redacted]

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A local resident stated that the troops in the Musaren Kaserne have been under the command of Colonel Garachan (fnu) since 1 December 1951. The colonel rode in sedan [redacted], was said to be a native of Minsk, and allegedly replaced Lieutenant Colonel Kavanenko (fnu), the previous commanding officer in the installation who was said to have gone to Leissen (N 52/P 02) for reassignment. *

2. On 15 December 1951, the MGB quarters in Bautzen was occupied by about 150 troops with black-bordered red epaulets; most of them were recruits. Colonel Mikhailov (fnu) was identified as the commanding officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Kachonko (fnu), as his deputy. **
3. A train which was in the Bautzen freight yard on 27 December 1951, facing toward Dresden, carried 30 new, unnumbered trucks and about 50 artillery pieces of 120-mm. A German railroadman said that 14 tanks were unloaded from a train which arrived from the direction of Hoyerswerda (N 52/A 53) on 22 December. On the same day, 44 new, unnumbered trucks with 12 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen on a train in the Bautzen railroad station, with the engine headed toward Dresden. *

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4. Twelve [] were repeatedly observed leaving the Musaren Kaserno on the Kollwitz Strasse during the period from 20 December 1951 to 10 January 1952. Source learned that the Maunion (construction firm), Bautzen, had received an order to start building new tank garages in the Musaren Kaserno in the near future. *

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* [] Comment. The information indicates that the Musaren Kaserno, Bautzen, still quartered the 11th Gd Tank Regt of the 11th Gd Tank Div. Source grossly overestimated the number of troops in the installation, unless another unit was quartered there. See []. In view of the unloading of tanks in Bautzen and the planned erection of new tank garages, as reported in paragraph 4, it is possible that the large number of troops allegedly stationed in the Musaren Kaserno is indicative of a reinforcement of the Bautzen garrison.

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** [] Comment. According to previous information by the same source, the [] office is located in the Haupt villa in the restricted area on Mattigstrasse, Kachenko (fn) was identified by the same source as a major in September 1951. See [].

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